

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 19-25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, and 41-44 are currently pending in this application. Claims 12, 22-24, 42, and 43 remain withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 4, 13, and 16 are objected to for matters of form, and claims 37 and 41 are objected to as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of written description and lack of enablement. Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of clarity. Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Sanberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0028510 A1; hereinafter “Sanberg”) in view of Rosu-Myles et al. (Stem Cells 18:374-381, 2000; hereinafter “Rosu-Myles”). Finally, the drawings are objected to due to improper labelling of the figures. By this reply, Applicants cancel claims 4, 14, and 16, amend claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 15, 19, 25, 27, 29-33, 37, and 44, and address each of the Examiner’s objections and rejections.

Support for the Amendment

Support for the amendment to claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 15, 19, 25, 27, 29-33, 37, and 44 is found in the claims as originally filed and in the specification on, e.g., page 3, lines 19-26, page 5, lines 13-22, and page 6, lines 1-3. Applicants note that support for the phrase “wherein said CD34+/-, Lin- cells in said sample are enriched relative to CD34+/-, Lin- cells present in a mononuclear cell fraction of umbilical cord blood” recited in present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44 is found in the specification at page 5, lines 16-18, and in addition in Example 5 of U.S. Patent No.

5,925,567, which is incorporated by reference into the present specification. No new matter is added by the amendment.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings, stating that the labeling is improper. In response, Applicants provide amended drawing sheets 1-10, corresponding to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4A/4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, respectively. The amended drawing sheets correct the improper labeling identified by the Examiner. Applicants have also made appropriate correction throughout the specification with regard to the amended figures. Therefore, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 37 and 41 are objected to for encompassing non-elected subject matter. The Examiner states that “[t]he claims are directed to treating any disorder of the central nervous system, but the elected invention is limited to methods of treating stroke” (Office Action, p. 3). Applicants have amended independent claim 37 to recite that the method of causing an improvement in central nervous system function is applied to a patient “having impaired central nervous system function resulting from a stroke.” This objection may now be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objects to claims 13 and 16 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for having improper form because the claims fail to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have cancelled claim 16, but respectfully disagree that claim 13 does not further limit claims 1, 2, and 3 from which it depends.

Claim 13, which has been amended to depend from claim 1 or 2, recites that the “improvement results in repair of central nervous system damage caused by said stroke.” Claim 13 further limits the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 by specifying that the “improvement” in central nervous system functioning indicated in claims 1 and 2 occurs by repairing the damage done to brain tissues as a result of the stroke. In this embodiment, the method results in the re-establishment of communication between, e.g., two or more neurons (e.g., by regrowth of axons), rather than the generation of new neurons. This is contrasted with the mode of improvement recited in claim 15, which is directed to an improvement that results due to the regeneration of brain tissues at the site of the stroke (i.e., new tissue growth). Thus, claims 13 and 15 are directed to two distinct mechanisms by which the improvement is effected, and the limitations disclosed therein serve to further limit the subject matter of claims 1 and 2. Therefore, this objection should be withdrawn.

Statutory Double Patenting

The Examiner indicates that should claim 1 be found allowable, claim 4 will be objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Applicants have cancelled claim 4. Therefore, this objection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Written Description

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to satisfy the written description requirement. The Examiner

asserts that the specification does not disclose how to obtain “CD34+/-, Lin- cells.” The Examiner further asserts that a teaching of how to obtain CD34+/-, Lin- cells that is based on a method incorporated by reference from U.S. Patent No. 5,925,567 is not sufficient to satisfy the written description requirement because the ‘567 patent only discloses how to obtain CD34- cells. Thus, the Examiner concludes:

Given that the specification discloses that the cell composition used in the Example comprises “CD34+/-, Lin- cells,” one of skill in the art would not know the identify of the cell composition that produced the result described therein... Thus it is concluded that the written description requirement is not satisfied for the claimed methods of cell transplantation. (Office Action, p. 6.)

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Contrary to the Examiner’s conclusion, the term “CD34+/-, Lin-” clearly and unambiguously identifies the target population of cells recited in claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom. Applicants have chosen this shorthand designation, which is used and understood by those skilled in the art, to specify the cell surface markers that are present (+) or absent (-) on the recited population of cells, and which distinguish those cells from other cells. The cells recited in claims 1, 2, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom, are characterized by the presence or absence of CD34 (CD34+/-; i.e., both populations of cells are present) and the absence of lineage-specific markers (Lin-; i.e., the cells are undifferentiated). An alternative designation, using less abbreviated shorthand, would be to identify the target population of cells as including CD34+, Lin- cells and CD34-, Lin- cells. However, if the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution, Applicants’ are willing simply to delete “CD34+/-” from the claims.

This shorthand method of characterizing target cells by using (+) and (-) designations

was, at the time of invention, conventional in the art. For example, Gallacher et al. (Blood, 95:2813-2820, 2000; a copy of which is provided) employed this designation. Gallacher et al. refers to both CD34⁺, Lin⁻ cells and CD34⁻, Lin⁻ cells (Gallacher et al. also defines the cells using the CD38⁻ designation), stating:

Novel subpopulations identified within both CD34-CD38-Lin⁻ and CD34⁺CD38-Lin⁻ fractions were isolated based on the absence or presence of detectable cell surface CD7 or AC133 expression using sorting gates as indicated in Figure 1. (See p. 2815, col. 2.)

In addition, the specification further defines the “CD34[±], Lin⁻ cells” of interest by stating that they are “characterized as: CD2⁻, CD3⁻, CD14⁻, CD16⁻, CD19⁻, CD24⁻, CD56⁻, CD66b⁻, glycophorin A⁻, Flk-1⁺, CD45⁺, CXCR4⁺, MDR⁺” (see, e.g., page 6, lines 18-20).

Applicants’ specification employs completely conventional nomenclature for characterizing the target cell population; the skilled artisan would have no uncertainty with respect to the identity of the cell composition used in the method of the present claims. Therefore, the terminology used to describe the recited cell composition is not unclear and need not be defined in Applicants’ specification in any more detail than is provided.

The Examiner also asserts that the specification does not describe the preparation of CD34[±], Lin⁻ cells for use in the method of claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom, pointing to the absence in Example 5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,567, which is incorporated by reference into Applicants’ specification, of a specific description of the preparation of CD34[±], Lin⁻ cells. Applicants clarify that Example 5 of the ‘567 patent discloses a negative selection method that can be used to separate cells expressing CD2, CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD24, CD56, CD66b and glycophorin A from cells that do not express

these markers, so that the cells lacking the specified markers can be collected (see col. 16, lines 43-51). Although the '567 patent does not specify that the cells lacking expression of CD2, CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD24, CD56, CD66b and glycophorin A are lineage-negative (Lin-) cells, this feature is disclosed in the present specification, which defines CD34+/-, Lin- cells as being cells that do not express CD2, CD3, CD14, CD16, CD19, CD24, CD56, CD66b, and glycophorin A (see, e.g., page 6, lines 18-20). Because an anti-CD34 antibody is not used in the selection method of the '567 patent, the cells that are collected include both CD34+ and CD34- cells. Therefore, the method disclosed in Example 5 of the '567 patent would result in the preparation of a cell population within claims 1, 2, 37, and 44 of the present application, and claims dependent therefrom. Thus, Applicants' specification adequately conveys to one skilled in the art that Applicants, as of the filing date of the application, were in possession of the cell compositions required for use in the methods of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44. For all of the reasons provided above, Applicants submit that the written description requirement has been met, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Enablement

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement. The Examiner states that "the specification does not teach how to use the claimed methods to produce a therapeutic effect nor does it adequately teach how to practice the claimed method, which covers transplantation of a variety of cell types, as well as combined administration of cells and growth factors" (Office Action, p. 8).

Specifically, the Examiner states that the specification fails to provide guidance regarding the cell compositions to be used in transplantation (i.e., the type of cells and the species from which the cells are obtained), and how to obtain a beneficial effect following transplantation (Office Action, p. 7). The Examiner concludes by stating that “methods of transplantation of stem cells, precursor cells, and neural tissue into the CNS are not routinely successful and the specification does not offer adequate guidance to overcome the unpredictability in the art to...derive a therapeutic benefit in a diseased animal” (Office Action, p. 8). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The specification provides considerable guidance with respect to the cells to be administered and how to obtain those cells. As is discussed above, the type of cells to be transplanted, designated as CD34+/-, Lin- cells using conventional nomenclature employed in the art, are clearly and unambiguously identified by Applicants’ specification. Because this designation would be understood by the skilled artisan, no undue experimentation would be required of the skilled artisan to obtain the cells. Applicants have also amended independent claims 1, 2, 37, and 44 to specify that the CD34+/-, Lin- cells are human cells, a limitation which is clearly described in the specification on page 2, lines 24-27. Finally, as is also discussed above, U.S. Patent No. 5,925,567, which is incorporated by reference into the present specification, provides considerable guidance with respect to the preparation of human CD34+/-, Lin- cells for use in the methods of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44. Therefore, these issues raised by the Examiner to support the enablement rejection of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are moot.

The specification also teaches one skilled in the art how to obtain a beneficial effect following transplantation of the CD34+/-, Lin- cells according to the methods of claims 1-11, 13-

16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44. Applicants direct the Examiner to page 10, line 9 through page 13, line 7, of the specification, which teaches that significant improvement in central nervous system functioning in Sprague Dawley rats subjected to middle cerebral artery (MCA) occlusion, i.e., a rat stroke model, results when the treated rats were administered 1,000,000 human CD34+/-, Lin- stem cells by injection directly to the site of the stroke. The specification teaches that the MCA-occluded rats administered stem cells showed significant improvement in CNS function as compared to MCA-occluded rats administered vehicle alone, as determined using the forelimb placing test and the hindlimb placing test (see page 10, line 9, through page 13, line 7). Moreover, because the improvement in the MCA-occluded rat model is art-recognized as being predictive of success in treating stroke in humans (see, e.g., page 10, lines 14-18, of the specification), Applicants' statistically significant results of improvement in the MCA-occluded rat model plainly support the enablement of the method of present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom, which recite improvement in humans.

Applicants also direct the Examiner to the Declaration of Dr. Finklestein, which was filed on April 18, 2003, as evidence that CD34+/-, Lin- cells recited in claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, when administered to an area of brain disease or damage due to stroke, bring about an improvement in CNS function. The Declaration of Dr. Finklestein confirms that the administered CD34+/-, Lin- cells are able to effectively treat stroke when administered intravenously (i.e., requiring the cells to migrate to the site of damage) and when administered directly to the brain (see paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Dr. Finklestein filed on April 18, 2003).

Finally, Applicants note that the Examiner has previously acknowledged the enablement of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44. Applicants direct the Examiner

to page 3 of the Office Action mailed July 1, 2003, where the Examiner states that the specification is enabling for:

...a method of causing improvement in function of the central nervous system in a mammal having brain ischemia resulting from stroke, comprising injecting CD34+/-, Lin- cells into an ischemic region of the mammal's brain...

The Examiner further states:

The Declaration of Dr. Finklestein has been fully considered and the Examiner accepts that the example therein demonstrates that intravenous administration of umbilical cord blood cells in combination with a growth factor did result in functional improvement. (See page 4 of the Office Action dated July 1, 2003.)

Therefore, based on the teachings in the specification, and as elaborated in the Declaration of Dr. Finklestein, a skilled artisan would appreciate that administration of human CD34+/-, Lin- stem cells directly to the site of stroke damage would result in improvement in CNS function. Because the methods taught in Applicants' specification clearly enable one skilled in the art to practice the full scope of the claimed invention without requiring undue experimentation, as is discussed above, Applicants submit that the scope of present claims 1-3, 5-11, 13, 15, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 is commensurate with the level of skill in the art and undue experimentation would not be required to practice the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner states that claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, and 44 are indefinite because “the term ‘CD34+/-, Lin-’ is not defined in the specification and is not conventional in the art. Thus, it is unclear what the ‘CD34+/-’ designation means. It is therefore unclear what cell type is to be used in the claimed method” (Office Action, p. 10).

As is discussed above, the designation “CD34+/-, Lin-” is not unclear or ambiguous. Rather, this term is conventional in the art and clearly identifies the cells for use in the method of present claims 11-3, 5-11, 13, 15, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44. These cells express the cell surface marker CD34 (i.e., the cells are “CD34+”) or lack expression of CD34 (i.e., they are “CD34-”) and do not express the lineage markers (i.e., the cells are “Lin-”). Thus, CD34+/- indicates either expression or lack of expression of CD34. Because this term is a clearly understood and technically recognized designation, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejects claim 14, stating that the “recitation of ‘central nervous system disease caused by said stroke’...[is indefinite] because stroke does not **cause** CNS disease. Stroke is typically a **result of** cerebrovascular disease” (Office Action, p. 10; emphasis in original). Applicants have cancelled claim 14. This rejection can now be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 31 are rejected for lack of clarity for reciting “intercerebrally,” which is not defined in the specification and would be unclear in its use. Applicants have amended claims 25 and 31 to recite “intracerebrally” to correct this typographical error. “Intracerebral,” which is an art-known term, is defined by Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary as “situated in, introduced into, or made into the cerebrum” (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 2005). Because this term

is not unclear and is art-recognized, this rejection can now be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejects claims 25 and 31 for reciting “intercerebrally,” “intracisternally,” and “intracerebrovascularly,” stating that “[c]laims 1 and 2, from which claims 25 and 31 depend, are already limited to administering the cells ‘directly to the site of said stroke.’ The ‘site of said stroke’ would necessarily be located within the brain tissue and therefore would not be located in the fluid-filled spaces such as the ventricles” (Office Action, p. 11). Applicants respectfully disagree that the site of a stroke is limited to brain tissue and does not include, e.g., the fluid-filled ventricles, as is asserted by the Examiner.

A stroke occurs when brain cells (e.g., neurons) are deprived of oxygen-rich blood (cerebral ischemia), usually due to the presence of a blood clot in one or more arteries of the brain. A stroke can also result from bleeding into or around the brain (cerebral hemorrhage), which also deprives brain tissue of oxygen-rich blood. Therefore, the site of a stroke includes not only the brain tissue damaged due to the lack of oxygen (e.g., the region surrounding the clogged artery and the region downstream of the clogged artery in the case of cerebral ischemia), but also the region of damage (i.e., the site of hemorrhage). Accordingly, present claims 25 and 31 clarify that the administration of a cell sample containing an enriched CD34+/-, Lin- cell population alone, or in conjunction with a growth factor, respectively, to the site of the stroke includes intracerebral, intracisternal, intracerebroventricular, or intraparenchymal administration. Any one of these methods of administration would position the administered cells and growth factor in proximity to the site of the stroke; a fact that would be understood by the skilled artisan. Therefore, claims 25 and 31 do not lack clarity, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Sanberg in light of Rosu-Myles. The Examiner states that “Sanberg et al. (2000) disclose a method for treating stroke by administering umbilical cord blood cells...[and that] [t]he disclosure explicitly contemplates using the method of the invention to treat stroke (paragraphs [0042], [0054], [0065], and paragraphs [0161] through [0233]” (Office Action, p. 12). The Examiner further states that “[t]he reference of Sanberg et al. inherently discloses the administration of a cell composition comprising Lin- cells, as recited in the claims, because human cord blood cells inherently comprise Lin- cells, as evidenced by Rosu-Myles et al.” (Office Action, p. 12).

Applicants have amended claims 1, 37, and 44 to recite the preparation of a cell sample containing an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells, relative to the amount of CD34+/-, Lin- cells present in a mononuclear cell fraction of UCB, and claim 2 to recite the preparation of a cell sample containing an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells, relative to the amount of CD34+/-, Lin- cells present in a mononuclear cell fraction of blood. Sanberg fails to teach or suggest the preparation of a cell sample containing an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells, relative to the amount of CD34+/-, Lin- cells present in a mononuclear cell fraction of UCB or blood. Sanberg also fails to teach or suggest the preparation of any cell population from a source other than umbilical cord blood (UCB), such as blood, which is recited in present claim 2, or peripheral blood, which is recited in Applicants’ claim 5.

Sanberg merely describes the preparation and administration of neural cells from whole

UCB, a mononuclear cell fraction thereof, or a mononuclear cell fraction that has been treated with a mitogenic agent or a differentiation factor to increase the population of, or differentiation to, neural cells (see, e.g., pages 3-4, paragraph [0032], and page 13, paragraph [0139]). Sanberg defines “neural cells” as follows:

The term “neural cells” are cells having at least an indication of neuronal or glial phenotype, such as staining for one or more neuronal or glial markers or which will differentiate into cells exhibiting neuronal or glial markers. Examples of neuronal markers which may be used to identify neuronal cells according to the present invention include, for example, neuron-specific nuclear protein, tyrosine hydroxylase, microtubule associated protein, and calbindin, among others. The term neural cells also includes cells which are neural precursor cells, i.e., stem and/or progenitor cells which will differentiate into or become neural cells or cells which will ultimately exhibit neuronal or glial markers, such term including pluripotent stem and/or progenitor cells which ultimately differentiate into neuronal and/or glial cells. (See page 5, paragraph [0053].)

As is discussed above, the designation “Lin-” indicates that the cells for use in the method of present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom, lack lineage-specific markers, such as neural cell-specific markers. Therefore, the CD34+/-, Lin- cells recited in present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44 can be distinguished from the “neural cells” of Sanberg because the CD34+/-, Lin- cells are undifferentiated and do not have “an indication of neuronal or glial phenotype.” Furthermore, Sanberg fails to teach or suggest that the whole UCB preparation, the mononuclear cell fraction preparation, or the mononuclear cell fraction preparation that has been treated with a mitogenic agent or a differentiation factor contains an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells. The term “whole” indicates that the whole UCB preparation is prepared and administered without enrichment of any population of cells therein, such as by fractionation,

separation, or purification. Because the present claims recite providing a sample of cells enriched in CD34+/-, Lin- cells relative to a mononuclear cell fraction of UCB (independent claims 1, 37, and 44) or blood (independent claim 2), the disclosure by Sanberg of the administration of whole UCB does not teach or suggest the method of present claims 1-3, 5-11, 13, 15, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44.

With respect to the mononuclear cell fraction of UCB, Sanberg clearly states that it includes either all of the mononuclear cells (i.e., no enrichment for CD34+/-, Lin- cells), or that it lacks CD34+ cells. Sanberg states that the “[i]nitial experiments with umbilical cord blood utilize all of the mononuclear cells collected without separation of CD34+ cellular components...[while] [o]ther experiments utilize cord blood that is depleted of CD34+ cells” (see, e.g., page 10, paragraph [0091]; emphasis added). Sanberg fails to teach or suggest that the mononuclear cell fraction prepared from UCB contains an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells, and, in fact, Sanberg advocates removing the CD34+ cells; cells which are present in the cell composition recited in present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom. Thus, Sanberg not only fails to teach or suggest preparing and using an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells, as is recited in the present claims, Sanberg also fails to provide any motivation to enrich CD34+/-, Lin- cells for use in treating stroke.

Sanberg further discloses that the mononuclear cell fraction can be modified by exposure to “neural proliferation medium,” which contains a mitogenic agent, such as EGF and bFGF (see, e.g., page 13, paragraph [0139]). This cell composition is enriched for “neural and mesenchymal precursors,” which are identified by the expression of neural cell-specific markers, such as nestin and vimentin, not CD34+/-, Lin- cells which lack these neural cell-specific markers (see page 7,

paragraph [0062], and pages 10-11, paragraph [0098]). Because these neural cell-specific markers are absent in CD34+/-, Lin- cells, as is evidenced by the designation “Lin-,” this limitation in the present claims further serves to distinguish the cell composition of Sanberg from the cell composition recited in independent claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom.

Finally, Sanberg describes treating a mononuclear cell fraction with “neural differentiation medium,” which contains a differentiation factor, such as retinoic acid (RA) and neural growth factor (NGF), and which promotes differentiation of the neural cells (see, e.g., page 13, paragraph [0139]). Sanberg states that “[c]ord blood cells, cultured in the presence and absence of retinoic acid (RA) and Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), gave rise to cells bearing neural progenitor markers as evidenced by profiles of gene and protein expression” (see page 14, paragraph [0152] and Table I). Again, these cells, like the neural and mesenchymal precursors cells produced upon exposure of a mononuclear cell fraction to a mitogen, are distinguished from the enriched CD34+/-, Lin- cell population recited in independent claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom, because the differentiated neural cells clearly express lineage-specific markers that are absent in the undifferentiated, non-neural-specific CD34+/-, Lin- cells.

As is evident from the discussion above, Sanberg alone clearly fails to expressly teach or suggest the preparation of a cell sample containing an enriched population of CD34+/-, Lin- cells. The Examiner also raises the issue of inherency, stating that Sanberg “inherently discloses administration of a cell composition comprising Lin- cells, as is recited in the claims, because human cord blood cells inherently comprise Lin- cells, as evidenced by Rosu-Myles et al. (Office Action, p. 12). Because Sanberg fails to teach or suggest the preparation of an enriched

population of CD34+/- cells, Lin- cells, the issue of inherency is moot, because neither Sanberg nor Rosu-Myles teaches or suggests this element of present claims 1, 2, 37, and 44, and claims dependent therefrom. Therefore, for all of the reasons discussed above, Sanberg, either alone or in combination with Rosu-Myles, fails to disclose each and every limitation of present claims 1-3, 5-11, 13, 15, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44, and the requirements for establishing anticipation have not been met (see M.P.E.P. § 2131). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-21, 25, 27, 29-33, 35, 37, 41, and 44 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

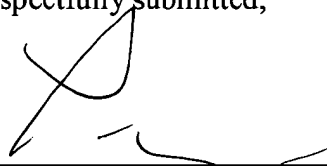
Enclosed is a Petition to extend the period for replying for three months, to and including January 13, 2005, and a check for the fee required under 35 U.S.C. § 1.17(a).

If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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